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Idaho students perform well on national science test

Idaho fourth and eighth graders outpaced their U.S. counterparts on a rigorous national science test, according to results released today.

“We are pleased to see our students perform well compared to those in other states,” Dr. Howard said. “We hope to see performance improve over time as Idaho focuses more on science in the coming years.”

Idaho has been developing a test to measure the state’s science standards as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. This spring, the second version of the science ISAT was piloted with students in the fifth, seventh, and ninth grades. Results from the pilot testing will be used to finalize the test for future use.

Results released today show:

Fourth-Grade Science – National Assessment of Educational Progress			
	Average Score	Percent scoring Basic or better	Percent scoring Proficient or better
Idaho 2005	155	75%	29%
U.S. 2005	149	66%	27%
Other fourth-grade findings from NAEP 2005 include:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Idaho fourth-graders outpaced their U.S. counterparts on all four subtests in science, earth science, physical science, and life science.In all subgroups reported, except White students, Idaho fourth-grade student performance matched or exceeded their U.S. counterparts.Twelve (12) states had higher average fourth-grade science scores than Idaho, 23 states were lower, and six were not significantly different.2005 Idaho overall fourth-grade science performance was steady compared to 2000 Idaho results.			

Eighth-Grade Science – National Assessment of Educational Progress			
	Average Score	Percent scoring Basic or better	Percent scoring Proficient or better
Idaho 2005	159	71%	36%
U.S. 2005	147	57%	27%
Other eighth-grade findings from NAEP 2005 include:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Idaho eighth-graders outpaced their U.S. counterparts on all four subtests in science, earth science, physical science, and life science.• In all subgroups reported, Idaho eighth-grade student performance matched or exceeded their U.S. counterparts.• Only six states had higher average eighth-grade grade science scores than Idaho, 29 states were lower, and eight states were not significantly different.• 2005 Idaho overall eighth-grade science performance was steady compared to 2000 Idaho results.			

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(Editors and reporters: A representative sampling of fourth and eighth graders took NAEP. No district or school data is available. Scores for all states and jurisdictions are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/> and more Idaho specific information is available at <http://www.sde.state.id.us/naep/>